

## **Airport Master Plan - Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) Kick-off Meeting**

Date: December 11, 2014 - 8:00am to 10:00am  
Location: Harvey Field Airport, Hangar 15  
AIP Project: Airport Master Plan

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### **In Attendance:**

#### **PAC Members**

Gary Brandstetter, Marshland Diking District  
Mary Pat Connors, Economic Development Committee  
Jon Counsell, Pilot  
Owen Dennison, City of Snohomish Planning Director  
Debbie Emge, City of Snohomish Economic Development Manager  
Karen Guzak, City of Snohomish Mayor  
Tom Hamilton, City of Snohomish Council Member  
Dan Huntington, Citizen at Large  
Tom Jensen, Washington Pilot's Association, Airport Director  
Eric Johnson, WSDOT Aviation  
Mark "Chewey" Nuss, Historic Downtown Snohomish  
Russ Ogle, Pilot  
Thom Peters, Citizen at large  
Katherine Riley, Noise Committee Member  
Don Spencer, Pilot  
Pam Spurling, Citizen & Neighboring land owner  
Wes Spurling, Citizen & Neighboring land owner  
Dave Stewart, Business owner  
Frank Strahm, Business owner  
Jim Sutton, Skydive Snohomish  
Sara Sutton, Snohomish Flying School  
Marcy Volmer, Snohomish Boys and Girls  
Tom Washington, WSDOT Roads  
Dave Weber, Experimental Aircraft Association  
Tim Porter, Pilot  
Tom Nesko, Harvey WPA

#### **Airport Staff**

Kandace Harvey  
Cyndy Hendrickson

#### **Consulting Team**

Hilary Fletcher, Aviation  
Donna Taylor, Aviation  
Renee Dowlin, Aviation

## 1. PAC Welcome, Expectations, and Ground Rules Goals, Role and Responsibilities, and Communication

Kandace Harvey opened the meeting by welcoming members to the PAC and introducing the airport staff, consultant team, and introducing Hilary Fletcher as the facilitator. All participants introduced themselves, identifying their affiliation to the airport and their interest in the airport.

Hilary provided an overview of the PAC's role and responsibilities and composition of the PAC membership. She also outlined the communication protocol to be utilized throughout the project. She then asked the following questions and PAC comments included:

→ What are the positive assets that the Airport brings to the community? How does the Airport support the community?

-Moved to Snohomish because of the Airport: infrastructure, small community

-Airport brings people to Snohomish because of Hot Air Balloons, skydiving, Restaurant

-Airport has helped facilitate community events for the past 25 years, helping out non-profit organizations etc.

-Airport businesses contribute money to the community: every year approx. 5,000 first time skydivers come to the area and bring family and friends

-Airport has an educational component that provides an opportunity for the community

-Airport provides meeting place for many organizations

-Harvey Field known as Mecca for skydivers

-Harvey Field known internationally for flight training school

-It is a fly-in destination because of the Restaurant

-Opportunity for search and rescue training

-Allow sports teams to practice on-site

→ What could be improved upon?

-Harvey Field could do a better job promoting and telling their story. They have a lot to offer and are doing much to improve the economy of the area.

-Harvey Field could do a better job addressing the noise issues that arise from pilots not following the “fly friendly” policy established to minimize noise impacts to surrounding neighborhoods. Much discussion followed with several of the PAC members. Hilary noted that there would be a focus group established for noise.

-The opportunity to have better communication between Harvey Field and stakeholders, especially as it relates to potential flooding issues. Drainage district wants to be involved early so they can understand future development plans and know any impacts.

## 2. Master Plan Overview

Renee provided an overview of Master Plan process. This included a discussion of the different project phases and the task associated with each. Renee also explained the additional public outreach tools that were included in this project such as the website, open houses, focus groups, etc.

## 3. Airport Systems & Key Relationships

Donna provided the PAC with an overview of the national and state airport systems and discussed Harvey Field’s role within each. She also discussed the roles and relationships the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) play in relation to the airport and discussed the economic impact of Harvey Field.

Discussion followed and PAC comments included:

- Does FAA’s safety and security apply to the pilot and the plane or just the physical layout of the airport? Donna answered that the FAA only funds facilities on the airport. The FAA’s highest priorities are the runways, taxiways, and making sure design standards are met.
- Would the FAA/WSDOT require a formal environmental review of the Master Plan? Donna noted that the Master Plan would be addressing environmental issues throughout the development of the alternatives and that a formal environmental review would occur once a specific development was proposed.

## 4. Airport Financing

Hilary provided an overview of airport funding from the federal and state level. This included discussion regarding airport revenue generation, as well as funding for airport improvements.

## 5. Federal & State Grant Assurances

Hilary discussed the obligations and requirements associated with accepting federal grant funding under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). Specifically, federal law requires airport sponsors to follow 39 identified grant assurances. State grant assurances were also briefly discussed.

- Would grants be available for land acquisitions and could they be used for condemnation? Donna informed the PAC that grant funds can be used for land acquisition but because Harvey Field is a private airport, they cannot condemn property.
- General questions were asked and responded to by Aviation staff.

## 6. Next Steps

Hilary identified the next steps of the project as well as a tentative time period for when the next PAC update will occur. The next meeting with the PAC is scheduled to occur in March. Aviation will provide a 30-45 day advance notice of the next meeting.

Hilary closed the meeting by thanking the PAC members for their participation and emphasizing the PAC's role in representing the community, as this will be vital to the success of the Master Plan. PAC members will be receiving an email with a link to the website. The website will have copies of the presentations and other information as available.

## General Comments from the PAC:

- Mayor Guzak noted that we all have a circle of influence and that we should be spreading the word about the Master Plan.
- Tom Jensen reiterated that pilot education is the key to minimizing noise impacts. Other pilots need to speak up and encourage good behavior in others.
- Katherine Riley noted that it would be helpful to have some communication in place that would provide upcoming Noise Alert emails or telephone calls for pre-planned events.
- PAC members interested in being on the Noise Focus Group: Katherine Riley, Tom Jensen, Jon Counsell, Jim Sutton, Tim Porter, Russ Ogle, Tom Peters, and Dave Weber. Aviation will contact FAA and ask for a representative as well.